

SCHOOLS GIVE TOP MARKS TO STRAND!

Deer Park School in Cirencester has been the location for a brand-new performing arts centre as part of a Gloucestershire County Council Build Project.

The result of this project was an octagonal drama space with a pitched roof, and a balcony around seven sides with the eighth side used for lighting and sound control, which complements the school's other performance facilities in the main hall and the drama studio.

Strand's technical specialists Richard Harris and David Wilkins were involved at an early stage, and advised on the use of standard 50mm barrel for the

balcony structure to give added flexibility for rigging luminaires. A seven-sided lighting bar above the balcony line provides easily accessible lighting positions from the balcony itself. A central lighting grid, 5m square, provides acting area positions.

The complement of luminaires, which includes twenty four Prelude spotlights, is controlled by a 24-channel Strand MX 2-preset manual and memory desk, linked to four Act 6 dimmer packs.

Stage Electrics of Bristol, a Strand Main Distributor, supplied and commissioned the lighting and sound equipment, which electrical contractors Lee Beesley installed. *

Strand's Northern Main Distributor, Futurist Light & Sound Ltd of Dewsbury, West Yorkshire have recently completed the installation of a major project at a brand new secondary school in Newcastle upon Tyne, one of the best equipped drama departments of any school in Britain.

Mortimer Comprehensive school has put Performing Arts at the very heart of its curriculum and has several purpose built venues within the school complex.

Futurist specified Strand equipment exclusively as the school thought it was important that the students use the same equipment as found in professional venues.

The 250 seat Arts Theatre is equipped with an internally wired grid and fitted with a complement of luminaires from the Strand Coda, Prelude and Cantata ranges. The Permus dimmer rack installation is controlled by a 48 way MX, together with a sound system with communications, drapes and tracks.

The school has found the MIDI facility of the MX very useful when using keyboards and sequencers from the music laboratory and has provided a valuable link with music and drama within the learning process. *

Lights! asked a teacher to comment on Strand's resource pack...

STEP INTO THE LIMELIGHT

"At lunchtime, I run a stage lighting course for 14 to 15 year old boys for which I use the Strand resource pack. It is an ideal introduction for pupils and students with an interest in the theatre, particularly those following a drama course at any level.

As an after school activity, those in the next year learn how to handle the lighting equipment in actual productions, as assistants to Sixth Formers. These older students then take full responsibility, under my guidance, for all technical aspects of the production. Throughout, their education in stage lighting is greatly enhanced by the resource pack; in particular, by the excellent posters.

The whole resource pack has a 'professional feel' about it and the emphasis, order and presentation are just right. An eminently

readable, well-structured booklet is complemented by a series of clear and attractive posters. The possibility of photo-copying the notes, which has been freely granted to schools by Strand, is very useful. A set of lighting design accessories, which I have found invaluable, completes this 'mini-course' which I thoroughly recommend."

*Edward Glynn
Master-in-charge
Stage Lighting
The John Lyon School
Harrow, Middlesex*

Lights! would be glad to hear of other teacher's experiences of using *Step into the Limelight* as part of a stage lighting course. Please write to Andy Collier at Strand in Isleworth. *



YOUR CHANCE TO OWN A TEACHING RESOURCE PACK

The pack provides a complete stage lighting teaching programme and includes 15 wall posters in colour; a 24-page illustrated teacher's booklet; colour filter samples; a scale

design stencil; a technical drawing pen; photocopy masters of scale lighting plan, plot sheet and patching chart. All for £37.75. *

SPECIAL OFFERS FOR LIGHTS! READERS

To order any of these items, please use the attached order card, or alternatively write to Wendy Ellis, Strand Lighting Ltd, Grant Way, Syon Lane, Isleworth, Middlesex, TW7 5QD, UK, with your order and cheque or postal order made out to Strand Lighting Ltd. Alternatively, you may order by phone with a Visa or Mastercard credit card by calling Wendy on 081-560 3171.

SIXTY YEARS OF LIGHT WORK

Fred Bentham's autobiography *Sixty Years of Light Work*, which is reviewed on page 19, is only available from Strand Lighting. This is a must for your bookshelf, and will make an ideal Christmas present! £12.95 plus £1.55 P&P

SCIENCE OF LIGHT

An extract of Joe Thornley and Brian Fitt's new textbook *Lighting by Design* (see the review on page 19) has been re-printed by Strand especially for *Lights!* readers. Called *The Science of Light*, this 50

page booklet, which includes a comprehensive colour filter comparison chart, describes the theory of light, starting with the eye's response to electromagnetic radiation, colour perception and the application of colour filter media. £2.95.

CLOTHING OFFERS

Our top quality T-shirts, sweatshirts and tracksuits are suitable for both men and women. T-Shirts in black or white with *Lights!* logo, sizes L and XL: £5.00. Sweatshirts in size L, red only

with *Lights!* logo: £11.80.

Tracksuits black, in size M, L and XL with embroidered Strand Lighting logo: £24.95.

LIGHTING DESIGN STENCIL

This 1:25 scale lighting design stencil has been specially produced for students and amateurs. £4.95.

STRAND PEN

This technical drawing pen from Staedtler has a 0.25mm nib for use with the Strand stencil. £4.20.